Appendix * Scoping Report



Memorandum

Date:	July 29, 2011
То:	Matt Davis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Cc:	Chris Elliott, ICF International, Jennifer Rogers, ICF International
From:	Ingrid Norgaard, ICF International
Subject:	Public Scoping Meeting Summary for the Sutter Basin Project and Feather River West Levee Project Environmental Scoping Meetings—June 27 and 28, 2011

Introduction

Two efforts are presently underway to study flood risk reduction improvements in Sutter and Butte Counties, one known as the Sutter Basin Feasibility Study, sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to determine federal interest in flood risk reduction project(s), and one known as the Feather River West Levee Project (FRWLP), sponsored by the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) as a locally driven flood risk reduction project.

The two projects are being studied in close coordination because they at least partially overlap in their study areas, purpose, potential improvements, potential effects, and involved parties. Therefore, a joint scoping process is being conducted for the two projects to explain the relationship between the two efforts and obtain public input in a manner that is convenient, efficient, and integrated. It is anticipated that the two planning efforts will result in a separate Environmental Impact Study/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for each project, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Sutter Basin Feasibility Study

USACE initiated the Sutter Basin project in 2001 and is conducting a feasibility study to evaluate flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and recreation opportunities within the study area. The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) and SBFCA, in their roles as non-federal local sponsors, are coordinating with USACE on the feasibility study. USACE, acting as the federal lead agency under NEPA, and SBFCA, acting as the state lead agency under CEQA, have determined that an EIS/EIR will be prepared to describe alternatives, potential environmental effects, and mitigation measures.

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FRWLP

SBFCA is planning the FRWLP to address levee deficiencies in the west levee of the Feather River from Thermalito Afterbay to the Sutter Bypass confluence to meet federal, state, and local flood protection criteria and goals. In 2010, an assessment district was enacted to provide local funding toward flood management improvements. These funds will be matched with those from the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1E) administered by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The purpose of the FRWLP would be to construct improvements as quickly as possible in advance of and compatible with the Sutter Basin Feasibility Study. USACE, acting as the federal lead agency under NEPA, and SBFCA, acting as the state lead agency under the CEQA, have determined that an EIS/EIR will be prepared to describe alternatives, potential environmental effects, and mitigation measures.

Development of the draft EIS/EIR to evaluate the FRWLP is underway and scheduled for public release in early 2012. A public release date for the Sutter Basin Project draft EIS/EIR has yet to be determined.

SBFCA and USACE have been carrying out scoping activities to assist them in determining the scope, and content of the environmental information for these two projects. SBFCA and USACE have had ongoing inter-agency consultation with responsible and interested agencies such as the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Water Resources (DWR), and California Regional Water Quality Control Board to name a few. In addition, SBFCA and USACE conducted a total of four public scoping meetings for the public and for federal and state agency staff on June 27th and June 28th, 2011. The following summarizes the outreach conducted to inform responsible and interested agencies and the public of the proposed projects, the scoping meetings, and the public comment received.

Noticing

Notice of Intent/Preparation

In compliance with the requirements set forth in CEQA, SBFCA and USACE prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP). The NOP contained a brief description of the proposed project, project date, probable environmental effects, the date, time and place of the public scoping meetings, and contact information. The NOP solicited participation in determining the scopes and content of the environmental information of the EIS/EIRs. On May 20, 2011 the NOP was sent to Responsible and Trustee Agencies and involved federal agencies, to the State Clearinghouse, and parties previously requesting notice in writing. The comment period on the NOP was May 20, 2011 to July 08, 2011.

In compliance with the requirements set forth in NEPA, USACE prepared a Notice of Intent (NOI) describing its intent to prepare an EIS/EIR, the proposed action, the possible alternatives, and relevant scoping meeting and contact information. The NOI was posted in the Federal Register, the United States Government's official noticing and reporting publication, on May 20, 2011. The official comment period for the NOI was May 20, 2011 to July 08, 2011.

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Mailings

SBFCA utilized a previously developed mailing list of interested stakeholders to send an email notification encouraging attendance at the scoping meetings.

Notifications

Advertisements briefly introducing the lead agencies, the proposed projects and associated environmental review processes, and publicizing the scoping meetings were placed in the Appeal Democrat and the Gridley Herald newspapers. Both newspapers are intended to reach a local and regional public audience that residents routinely rely upon to keep them abreast of Sutter and Butte county issues. The advertisements were published in the Appeal Democrat on June 20 and June 27, 2011. The advertisements were published in the Gridley Herald on June 22 and June 24, 2011. A media release was also emailed out to a number media contacts within the region on June 22, 2011.

Attachment A contains copies of the following:

- Notice of Preparation
- Notice of Intent
- Email Notification
- Appeal Democrat and Gridley Herald Ledger Advertisements
- Media Release

Public Meetings

Four public scoping meetings were held to inform the public of the proposed projects and seek feedback on the range of alternatives, environmental effects, and issues of concern related to the Sutter Basin Project and the FRWLP. The four meetings were held at two different times for two days. On June 27, 2011 the meeting times were from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Yuba City Veterans Memorial Community Center. On June 28, 2011 the meeting times were from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Gridley Veterans Memorial Hall. The meeting locations were chosen as they are central to the region. The meeting times were chosen to accommodate both the work day schedules of public agency representatives and the general public, including residents and business owners.

The meetings were open-house style workshops in which attendees could read and view the information about the two projects and interact with project staff including SBFCA, USACE, DWR, HDR Engineering consultant staff, and ICF International (ICF) environmental consulting staff.

Twenty-six graphic display boards were on display for attendees to review. The boards described and illustrated the Sutter Basin Project and FRWLP history, purpose, need and objectives, study area, levee deficiencies and potential improvements, environmental considerations, the CEQA/NEPA process and project timeline and were on display for attendees to review. SBFCA, USACE, HDR and

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ICF staff were stationed at display boards to interact with public attendees and provide additional detail or answer any questions.

A Power Point presentation was given to provide a brief introduction to the Sutter Basin Project and the FRWLP including objectives, schedule, environmental compliance, and related flood control work in the region.

A fact sheet, providing an overview of the Sutter Basin Project and the FRWLP including purpose and goals, maps of the corresponding study areas, an overview of the environmental compliance process and timeline, was also made available.

Comment cards were prepared so that meeting attendees could provide feedback on the projects. These cards could be filled out during the meeting and given to a project team member.

Attachment B contains copies of the following:

- Display boards
- Power Point presentation
- Fact sheet
- Comment card templates

Public Feedback

There were 36 people in total who attended the two meetings. Twelve people attended the meeting from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and four people attended the meeting from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on June 27, 2011. Fifteen people attended the meeting from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and five people attended the meeting from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on June 28, 2011.

Five comments were received from the public regarding the EIS/EIRs during the scoping period. Below is a list summarizing the comments received.

- A request was made to keep the process for the Sutter Basin Feasibility Study on schedule so the state will be able to release EIP funding for the FRWLP.
- A comment was received regarding the importance of coordinating with the Lower Feather River Corridor Management Project so not to have to duplicate efforts on environmental studies.
- A comment was received in favor of the option of putting in a levee setback in the Nelson Slough area.
- A comment was received in opposition of the project.
- A comment addressed two issues. The first comment pertains to the lack of attention to the east levee of the Sutter Bypass. The second comment suggested using a perimeter levee around Yuba City, or a J levee on the south and west side.

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Attachment C contains copies of the following:

- Comments received from all interested parties (including those transcribed by court reporter)
- Attendee sign-in sheet templates

Next Steps

The comments received during the scoping period will assist in determining which issues are evaluated in detail in both the Sutter Basin Project and FRWLP EIS/EIRs. Once alternatives have been developed based on the scoping process and preexisting information, they will be analyzed, and draft EIS/EIRs will be developed. Upon the release of the draft EIR/EIS, the public will have 45 days to comment on the document. Additionally, at least one public hearing will be held so the public and agencies can learn more about both of the draft EIR/EISs, ask questions regarding the analysis, and provide comments. At these meetings, the alternatives will be presented and explained.

Development of the draft EIS/EIR to evaluate the FRWLP is underway and scheduled for public release in early 2012. A public release date for the Sutter Basin Project draft EIS/EIR has yet to be determined.

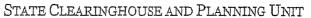
Attachment A

- Notice of Preparation
- Notice of Intent
- Email Notification
- Appeal Democrat and Gridley Herald Ledger Advertisements
- Media Release



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH





Notice of Preparation

May 20, 2011

To:

Reviewing Agencies

Re:

Sutter Basin Feasibility Study and Feather River West Levee Project

SCH# 2011052062

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Sutter Basin Feasibility Study and Feather River West Levee Project draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Ingrid Norgaard Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency c/o ICF International 630 K Street, Suite 400 Sacramento, CA 95814

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely

Scott Morgan .

Director, State Clearinghouse

I Mugan

Attachments cc: Lead Agency

Document Details Report State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2011052062

Project Title Sutter Basin Feasibility Study and Feather River West Levee Project

Lead Agency Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

Type NOP Notice of Preparation

Description Two efforts are presently underway to study flood risk reduction improvements in Sutter and Butte

Counties, one known as the Sutter Basin Feasibility Study, sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to determine federal interest in flood risk reduction project(s), and one known as the Feather River West Levee Project (FRWLP), sponsored by the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

Fax

(SBFCA) as a locally driven flood risk reduction project.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Ingrid Norgaard

Agency Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

Phone 916 737-3000 email inorgaard@icfi.com

Address c/o ICF International

630 K Street, Suite 400

City Sacramento State CA Zip 95814

Project Location

County Sutter, Butte

City

Region

Cross Streets Lat / Long

Parcel No.

Township Range Section Base

Proximity to:

Highways

Airports

. Railways

Waterways

Schools

Land Use

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Archaeologic-Historic;

Geologic/Seismic; Toxic/Hazardous; Water Quality; Landuse; Other Issues; Minerals; Noise;

Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Economics/Jobs; Traffic/Circulation

Reviewing Agencies

Date Received 05/20/2011

Resources Agency; Department of Conservation; Central Valley Flood Protection Board; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources;

Department of Fish and Game, Region 2; Office of Emergency Management Agency, California; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission; Caltrans, District 3; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Sacramento);

Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Redding)

Start of Review 05/20/2011

End of Review 06/20/2011

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	Quality Cor	Evalu (KWQCB) RWQCB 1 Cathleen Hudson	North Coast Region (1) RWQCB 2 Environmental Document	San Francisco Bay Region (2) RWQCB 3 Central Coast Region (3)	RWQCB 4 Teresa Rodgers Los Angeles Region (4)	Central Valley Region (5) RWQCB 5F Central Valley Recion (5)	Fresno Branch Office RWQCB 5R Central Valley Region (5)	Redding Branch Office RWQCB 6 Lahontan Region (6)	RWQCB 6V Lahontan Region (6) — Victorville Branch Office	RWQCB 7 Colorado River Basin Region (7)	RWQCB 8 Santa Ana Region (8) RWQCB 9	San Diego Region (9)	Other	Last Updated on 01/10/11	
当う コーニー	Caltrans, District 8 Dan Kopulsky	Galtrans, District 9 Gayle Rosander Caltrans, District 10	Tom Dumas Caltrans, District 11 Jacob Amstrong	Call EPA	Air Resources Board Airport Projects Jim I emer	Transportation Projects Douglas Ito	Mike Tollstrup State Water Decourage Control	Board Regional Programs Unit Division of Financial Assistance	State Water Resources Control Board	Student Intern, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit Division of Water Quality	State Water Resouces Control Board Steven Herrera Division of Water Rights	Lept. or loxic substances Control CEQA Tracking Center Department of Pesticide Regulation CEQA Coordinator			
County: JULIA	Heritage	Debble Treadway Public Utilities Commission Leo Wong	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Guangyu Wang State Lands Commission Marina Brand	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Cherry Jacques	Business, Trans & Housing Caltrans - Division of		California Highway Patrol Scott Loetscher Office of Special Projects	Housing & Community Development CEQA Coordinator	Tousing rolley bivision	Call		Caltrans, District 3 Bruce de Terra Caltrans, District 4 Lisa Carboni	Caltrans, District 5 David Murray	Michael Navarro Caltrans, District 7 Elmer Alvarez	
	Fish & Game Region 1E Laurie Hamsberger			Fish & Game Region 5 Don Chadwick Habitat Conservation Program	Gabrina Gatchel Habitat Conservation Program Fish & Game Region 6 I/M	brad henderson Inyo/Mono, Habitat Conservation Program Dept. of Fish & Game M	George Isaac Marine Region	Uther Departments Food & Agriculture Steve Shaffer	Depart, of General Services Public School Construction	Dept. of General Services Anna Garbeff Environmental Services Section	Dept. of Public Health Bridgette Binning Dept. of Health/Drinking Water	Independent Commissions,Boards Delta Protection Commission	Linda Flack Cal EMA (Emergency Management Agency)	Dennis Castrillo Governor's Office of Planning & Research State Clearinghouse	. · ·
The second of th	ources Agency	Resources Agency Nadell Gayou Deot. of Boating & Waterways	Mike Sotelo California Coastal Commission	Elizabeth A. Fuchs Colorado River Board Gerald R. Zimmerman	Dept. of Conservation Rebecca Salazar California Energy Commission	Eric Knight Cal Fire Allen Robertson	Central Valley Flood Protection Board James Herota	Office of Historic Preservation Ron Parsons	Dept of Parks & Recreation Environmental Stewardship Section	California Department of Resources, Recycling & Recovery	Sue O'Leary S.F. Bay Conservation & Dev't. Comm.	Steve McAdam Dept. of Water Resources Resources Agency Nadell Gayou	Conservancy	Land Game Depart. of Fish & Game Scott Flint	Environmental Services Division Fish & Game Region 1

Fish & Game Region 1 Donald Koch

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Night Vision Equipment

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested a possible sale of 200 High-performance In-Line Sniper Sight (HISS) Thermal Weapon Sights - 1500 meter, 200 MilCAM Recon III LocatIR Long Range, Light Weight Thermal Binoculars with Geo Location, 7,000 Dual Beam Aiming Lasers (DBAL A2), 6000 AN/PVS-21 Low Profile Night Vision Goggles (LPNVG), spare and repair parts, support equipment, technical documentation and publications, translation services, training, U. S. government and contractor technical and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated cost is \$330 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been, and continues to be, an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will augment Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats from potential adversaries during operations conducted at night and during low visibility conditions. The Royal Saudi Land Forces (RSLF) are responsible for regional, perimeter, and border security operations. This proposed sale meets their defense and counter-terrorism requirements to deter current insurgent activity along their southern border and contributes to their overall military posture. The RSLF already has night vision devices in its inventory and will have no difficulty absorbing this night vision equipment into its inventory.

The proposed sale of this equipment will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be FLIR Inc. in Boston, Massachusetts and Laser Devices, Inc. in Monterey, California. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this sale will not require the assignment of any U.S. Government or contractor representatives to recipient.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

[FR Doc. 2011–12405 Filed 5–19–11; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Notice of Intent To Prepare Draft Environmental Impact Statements/ Environmental Impact Reports for the Sutter Basin Feasibility Study and the Section 408 Permission for the Feather River West Levee Project, Sutter and Butte Counties, CA

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) intends to prepare a separate Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for each of the following related flood risk management study efforts in northcentral California: a Feasibility Study of flood risk management and related water resources problems in the Sutter Basin conducted by USACE under the authority of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (Pub. L. 87-874); and under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (as amended) (33 U.S.C. 408), and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), the proposed Feather River West Levee Project (FRWLP), sponsored by the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) as a locally driven flood management improvement project. The two projects are being studied in close coordination because they partially overlap in their study areas, purpose, potential improvements, potential effects, and involved parties. Therefore, a joint scoping process is being conducted for the two projects to explain the relationship between the two efforts and obtain public input in a manner that is convenient, efficient, and integrated. Figures of the two project areas can be viewed at the SBFCA Web site at: http://www.sutterbutteflood.org/ index.php/notices documents.

Sutter Basin Feasibility Study. On March 20, 2000, the State of California entered into a feasibility cost-sharing agreement (FCSA) with USACE to initiate a feasibility study. An amendment to the FCSA was signed in 2010, which included SBFCA as a non-Federal sponsor. The purpose of the study is to address flood risk, ecosystem restoration and recreation-related issues in the study area. If a Federal interest is determined, the study would result in a decision document, a General Investigation Feasibility Study report and EIS/EIR, which would be the basis for a recommendation to Congress for authorization. The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) and SBFCA are coordinating with USACE on the feasibility study. USACE, as the Federal lead agency under NEPA, and SBFCA, as the state lead agency under CEQA in coordination with CVFPB, have determined that an EIS/EIR will be prepared to describe alternatives, potential environmental effects, and mitigation measures.

FRWLP. SBFCA is planning the FRWLP to construct improvements to the west levee of the Feather River from Thermalito Afterbay to the Sutter Bypass confluence to meet Federal, state, and local flood protection criteria and goals. In 2010, an assessment district was enacted to provide local funding toward flood management improvements. These funds may be matched with those from the Early Implementation Program (funded through previous state bonds) administered by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). In order to implement the project, the sponsor must acquire permission from USACE to alter the Federal project under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (as amended) (33 U.S.C. 408 or, Section 408). USACE also

has authority under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) over activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill material to waters of the United States, which are known to be in the project area. The purpose of the FRWLP would be to construct improvements as quickly as possible in advance of and compatible with the Sutter Basin Project. USACE, acting as the Federal lead agency under NEPA, and SBFCA, acting as the state lead agency under the CEQA in coordination with CVFPB, have determined that an EIS/EIR will be prepared to describe alternatives, potential environmental effects, and mitigation measures.

DATES: Public scoping meetings will be held on Monday, June 27 at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Community Building, 1425 Veterans Memorial Circle, Yuba City, CA and on Tuesday, June 28 at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 245 Sycamore Street, Gridley, CA. Send written comments by July 8, 2011 (see ADDRESSES).

ADDRESSES: Written comments and suggestions concerning the scope and content of the environmental information may be submitted to Mr. Matt Davis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, Attn: Planning Division (CESPK-PD-R), 1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Requests to be placed on the mailing list also should be sent to this address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed actions and environmental review process should be addressed to Matt Davis at (916) 557–6708, e-mail:

Matthew.G.Davis@usace.army.mil (see ADDRESSES).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Proposed Action. Sutter Basin Feasibility Study. USACE is conducting a feasibility study to evaluate structural and non-structural flood-riskmanagement measures, including reoperation of existing reservoirs; improvements to existing levees; construction of new levees; and other storage, conveyance, and non-structural options. The Sutter Basin study area covers approximately 285 square miles and is roughly bounded by the Feather River, Sutter Bypass, Wadsworth Canal, Sutter Buttes, and Cherokee Canal. Flood waters potentially threatening the study area originate from the Feather River watershed and/or the upper Sacramento River watershed, above Colusa Weir. The study area is essentially encircled by project levees and the high ground of Sutter Buttes. Geotechnical analysis and historical performance during past floods

indicates the project levees are at risk of failure due to underseepage. The risk of levee failure coupled with the consequence of deep flooding presents a threat to public safety and property. Considering the collective changes to riparian and aquatic ecosystems brought about by agriculture, urbanization, mining, and flood risk management and water supply infrastructure, and the national concern for environmental quality and protection, every opportunity to restore and protect natural resources should be taken whenever changes in the water management system are being contemplated. Ecosystem restoration measures likely would include restoration of floodplain function and habitat. Recreation measures include those outdoor recreation opportunities associated with sustainable water resource development. The feasibility phase of this project is cost-shared 50% Federal, 50% non-Federal with the project sponsors, the State of California CVFPB and the SBFCA. The study will focus on alternatives in the study area that comprise flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and recreation management measures. As part of the study, an EIS/EIR will be prepared with USACE as the lead agency under NEPA and SBFCA in cooperation with CVFPB as the lead agency under CEQA.

FRWLP. SBFCA is proposing a levee improvement project along the Feather River west levee under the California DWR's Early Implementation Program to expeditiously complete flood-risk reduction measures in advance of the Sutter Basin Feasibility Study. Known as the FRWLP, the project proposes to construct levee improvements between the Thermalito Afterbay and the Feather River/Sutter Bypass confluence. Primary deficiencies of the levee include through-seepage, under-seepage, and embankment instability (e.g., overly steepened slopes). Alternatives considered may include measures such as slurry cutoff walls, seepage berms, stability berms, internal drains, relief wells, sheet-pile walls, slope flattening, and potential new levee alignments. As part of the project, an EIS/EIR is being prepared. USACE has authority under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (as amended) (33 U.S.C. 408), over alterations to Federal flood control project levees and any such alterations as proposed by SBFCA are subject to approval by USACE. USACE also has authority under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) over activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill material to waters of the United States, which are known to be in

the project area. Due to these authorities, USACE is acting as the lead agency for the EIS pursuant to NEPA. SBFCA will be acting as the lead agency for the EIR according to CEQA as an agency of the State of California with delegated authority to approve the project.

- 2. Alternatives. The EIS/EIRs will consider several alternatives for reducing flood damage. Alternatives analyzed during the investigation will consist of a combination of one or more measures to reduce the risk of flooding. These measures include installing cutoff walls, and constructing seepage berms.
 - 3. Scoping Process.
- a. A series of public scoping meetings will be held on June 27 and 28, 2011, to present information to the public and to receive comments from the public on both the feasibility study and the FRWLP. These meetings are intended to initiate the process to involve concerned individuals, and local, state, and Federal agencies.
- b. Significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the environmental documents include effects on hydraulics, wetlands and other waters of the U.S., vegetation and wildlife resources, special-status species, aesthetics, cultural resources, recreation, land use, fisheries, water quality, air quality, transportation, and socioeconomics; and cumulative effects of related projects in the study area.
- c. USACE is consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act and with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service to comply with the Endangered Species Act. USACE also is coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to comply with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.
- d. A 45-day public review period will be provided for individuals and agencies to review and comment on the draft environmental documents. All interested parties are encouraged to respond to this notice and provide a current address if they wish to be notified of the draft EIS/EIR circulation.
- 4. Availability. The draft EIS/EIR for the FRWLP is scheduled to be available for public review and comment in late 2011. The draft EIS/EIR for the Sutter Basin Feasibility Study is scheduled to be available for public review and comment in mid 2012.

Dated: May 12, 2011.

Andrew B. Kiger,

LTC, EN, Commanding.

[FR Doc. 2011-12510 Filed 5-19-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Notice of Availability of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Mechanical and Artificial Creation and Maintenance of Emergent Sandbar Habitat in the Riverine Segments of the Upper Missouri River, Missouri River Basin, United States

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD. **ACTION:** Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intends to file a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS) for the Mechanical and Artificial Creation and Maintenance of Emergent Sandbar Habitat on the Riverine Segments of the Upper Missouri River with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The FEIS is available for final public review. Details on the proposed action, location and areas of environmental concern addressed in the FPEIS are provided below under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

DATES: The review period will be open 30 days from the date of this notice. The Record of Decision is anticipated to be issued in August, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to: Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers, Omaha District; CENWO-PM-AC; ATTN: Emergent Sandbar Habitat Programmatic EIS; 1616 Capitol Avenue; Omaha, NE 68102– 4901, or e-mailed to:

Cynthia.s.upah@usace.army.mil.
Comments must be postmarked,
e-mailed, or otherwise submitted no
later than June 13, 2011. Copies of the
FPEIS have been sent to all agencies and
individuals who participated in the
scoping process or public hearings and
to those requesting copies. The FEIS is
available online at: http://

www.moriverrecovery.org/mrrp/MRRP_PUB_DEV.download_documentation_peis. To obtain a copy, please contact Ms. Cynthia Upah.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Cynthia Upah, Project Manager, by telephone: (402) 995–2672, by mail: 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102–4901, or by e-mail: Cynthia.s.upah@usace.army.mil. For inquires from the media, please contact the USACE Omaha District Public Affairs Officer (PAO), Ms. Monique Farmer by telephone: (402) 995–2416,

by mail: 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102, or by e-mail: Monique.l.farmer@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 1.

Background. The Emergent Sandbar Habitat (ESH) program is being implemented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the benefit of the interior population of the Interior least tern (least tern) and the northern Great Plains piping plover (piping plover). This implementation program resulted from a Biological Opinion (BiOp) issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in which the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) called for the Corps to provide sufficient ESH acreage in order to meet biological metrics (fledge ratios) to avoid jeopardizing continued existence of the species, as defined by the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The FPEIS is needed to provide National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) coverage for the mechanical and artificial construction of ESH in the riverine segments of the Upper Missouri River, pursuant to the 2003 BiOp Amendment RPA IV(b) 3, and to compare impacts among a range of alternatives. The goal is to inform the selection of a preferred alternative that allows for the creation and replacement of sufficient habitat to support tern and plover populations on the Missouri River in a safe, efficient and costeffective manner that minimizes negative environmental consequences.

Alternatives to the proposed project that are considered in the FPEIS include (1) no action, including existing program activities and no action; (2) and 6 action alternatives of various acreage creation. Environmental issues addressed in the FPEIS include hydrology, water quality, aggradation and degradation, biological resources, air quality, noise and recreation.

After detailed consideration of the environmental and social impacts, and cumulative effects, of the Alternatives, the Corps has identified an Adaptive **Management Implementation Process** (AMIP) as the preferred alternative, and not one of the specific acreage alternatives. The key aspect of the AMIP is that, rather than selecting a specific acreage alternative and pursuing such construction, actions would be progressively implemented with the focus on monitoring a combination of biological and physical metrics (measurements). Implementation of progressively larger acreage amounts of habitat would continue until the desired biological response is attained and sustained.

Join Us To Learn More About Local Flood Risk Reduction Efforts

Join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) for a public scoping meeting to learn about two proposed flood risk reduction efforts in Sutter and Butte counties. USACE's Sutter Basin Feasibility Study will look at potential improvements throughout the Sutter Basin, while SBFCA's Feather River West Levee Project is proposing to repair 44 miles of the river's west levee.

The public is encouraged to attend these meetings to comment on the scope of the proposed projects and the preparation of related environmental documents.

Meeting Dates & Times
June 27 at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Community Building
1425 Veterans Memorial Circle, Yuba City

June 28 at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Gridley Veterans Memorial Hall 249 Sycamore Street, Gridley

A presentation will begin 30 minutes after the start of each meeting. The same information will be presented at each meeting.

If you have questions or need special assistance or accommodations at a meeting, call 916-231-9618 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting you plan to attend.





Join Us To Learn More About Local Flood Risk Reduction Efforts

Join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) for a public scoping meeting to learn about two proposed flood risk reduction efforts in Sutter and Butte counties. USACE's Sutter Basin Feasibility Study will look at potential improvements throughout the Sutter Basin, while SBFCA's Feather River West Levee Project is proposing to repair 44 miles of the river's west levee.

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www.sutterbutteflood.org • www.spk.usace.army.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: INGRID NORGAARD

EMAIL: <u>inorgaard@icfi.com</u> PHONE: 916-737-3000

Agencies Hosting Public Meetings Related to Proposed Flood Improvements in Sutter and Butte Counties

The public is invited to attend to provide input on environmental process

Yuba City, June 22, 2011—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Sacramento District and the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) will hold four public scoping meetings on June 27 and 28 to provide the public an opportunity to comment on proposed regional flood risk management projects.

The purpose of the USACE's Sutter Basin Project is to address flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and recreation issues in the Sutter Basin study area. The project is currently in the feasibility study phase. The study area covers approximately 285 square miles and is roughly bounded by the Feather River, Sutter Bypass, Wadsworth Canal, Sutter Buttes and Cherokee Canal.

SBFCA is planning the Feather River West Levee Project (FRWLP) to address levee deficiencies found along 44 miles of the west levee of the Feather River from the Thermalito Afterbay south to the Sutter Bypass. The west levee provides flood risk management benefits to the cities of Yuba City, Gridley, Live Oak, and Biggs and portions of unincorporated areas of Butte and Sutter counties. Measures are being evaluated to meet Federal, state, and local flood protection criteria and goals.

The Sutter Basin Project and FRWLP are being studied in close coordination because of related study areas, purpose, potential measures and potential effects. It is anticipated that two separate environmental impact statements/environmental impact reports (EIS/EIR) will be developed—one for the Sutter Basin Project and one for FRWLP. The public release of the draft EIS/EIR to evaluate FRWLP is scheduled for early 2012. The release of the Sutter Basin Project's draft EIS/EIR has yet to be determined. The California Department of Water Resources and Central Valley Flood Protection Board are also involved in these two efforts.

Combined and coordinated scoping for the two efforts is being conducted to ensure an efficient process for interested stakeholders. Public input will be solicited about the content of the environmental documents. Please join us at one of four scoping meetings to provide input.

City of Yuba City

June 27 at 3:30 p.m. *and* 6:30 p.m. Veteran's Memorial Community Bldg. 1425 Veterans Memorial Circle, Yuba City

City of Gridley

June 28 at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Gridley Veteran's Memorial Hall 249 Sycamore Street, Gridley A presentation will be given 30 minutes after each meeting begins. The content of all four meetings will be the same. For questions about the meetings or to make special accommodations for attendees, contact Ms. Norgaard at 916-737-3000 or via email at inorgaard@icfi.com.

Learn more about the Sutter Basin Project at www.spk.usace.army.mil and about the FRWLP at www.sutterbutteflood.org.

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Attachment B

- Display boards
- Power Point presentation
- Fact sheet
- Comment card templates

Station 2 - Overview, Purpose, and Objectives 110x13

2A
About the SBP
36x18

2D
Inside Look at a Levee
30x24

2F
About the FRWLP
36x18

2B
SBP Study Area MAP
36x24

Typical Levee Deficiencies
30x24

FRWLP Study Area MAP 36x24

CDD Time of the o

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Station 3 - Potential Measures 110x13

3A	3B	3C	3D
Slurry Wall	Stability Berm	Seepage Berm	Relief Well
25x20	25x20	25x20	25x20
3E	3F	3G	3H
Sheet-Pile Wall	Slope Flattening	Internal Drain	New/Relocated Levee
25x20	25x20	25x20	25x20
31	3J	3K	3L
Re-Operation	Non-Structural	Ecosystem Restoration	Recreation

Station 4 - Environmental Process 110x13

4A
About NEPA/CEQA
24x32

4B
Scoping
24x32

4C
Enviro Issues
24x32

4D
Regulatory Compliance
24x32

4E
SBP Photo
52x32

4F
FRWLP Photo
52x32

Welcome to the Sutter Basin Project & Feather River West Levee Project Environmental Scoping Meeting





Overview, Purpose, and Objectives

About the Sutter Basin Project

In 2000, the State of California and USACE entered into a cost-sharing agreement to initiate a feasibility study within the Sutter Basin. An amendment of the cost-sharing agreement was signed in July 2010 to include SBFCA as a non-Federal sponsor. The purpose of the feasibility study is to address flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and recreation issues in the study area.

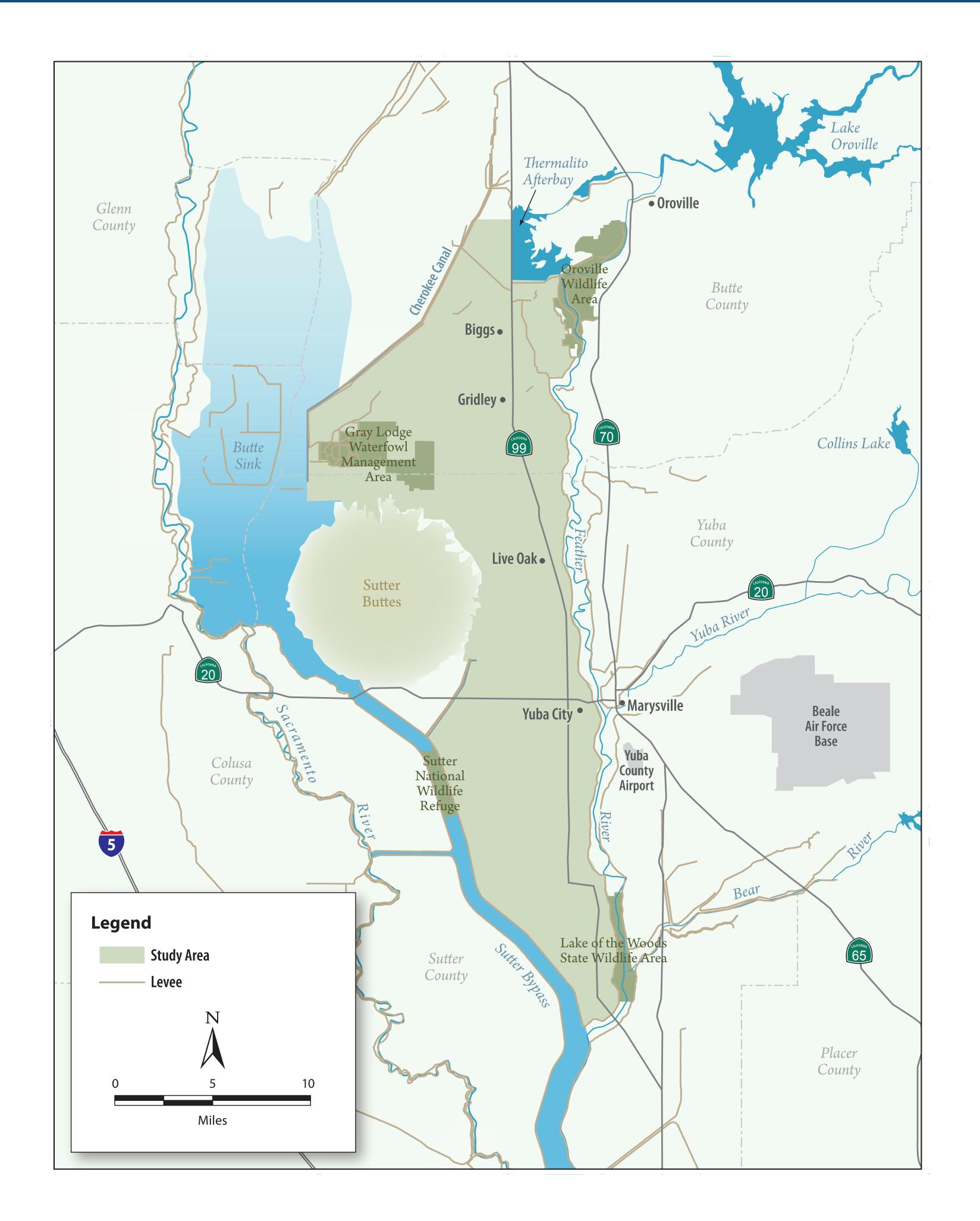
The Sutter Basin Project feasibility study evaluates approximately 285 square miles that are roughly bounded by the Feather River, Sutter Bypass, Wadsworth Canal, Sutter Buttes, and Cherokee Canal. The study area is essentially encircled by project levees and the high ground of the Sutter Buttes. Past flood events and geotechnical analysis show these levees have a higher probability of failure related to through-and under-seepage than levees designed to meet current standards. Additionally, the levees are at risk of overtopping from floods greater than they are designed to withstand.

As part of the Sutter Basin Project feasibility study, USACE is evaluating a variety of flood risk management measures that could include re-operation of reservoirs; improvements to existing levees; construction of new levees; other storage, conveyance, and non-structural options; and measures that could potentially restore the ecosystem within the study area and develop or expand recreation facilities.

This study will be the basis for a recommendation to Congress to address water resources and related issues within the study area.

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Sutter Basin Project Area



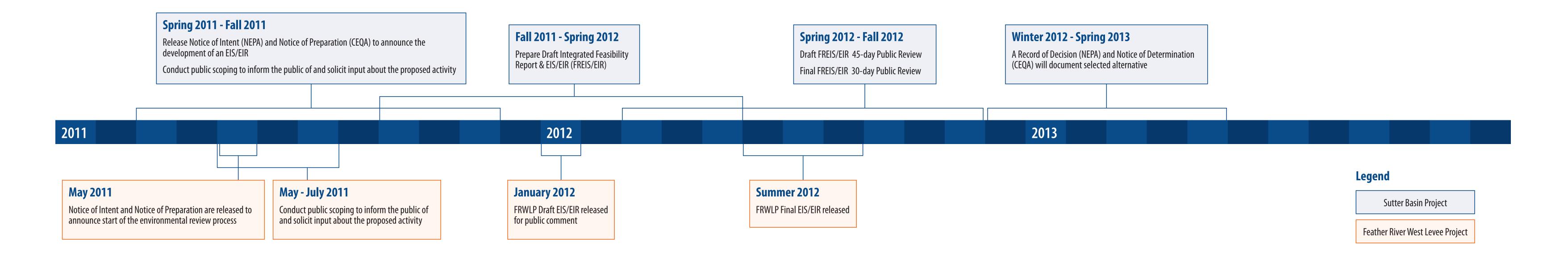
2B - SBP Study Area.indd 1

Sutter Basin Project Funding and Timeline

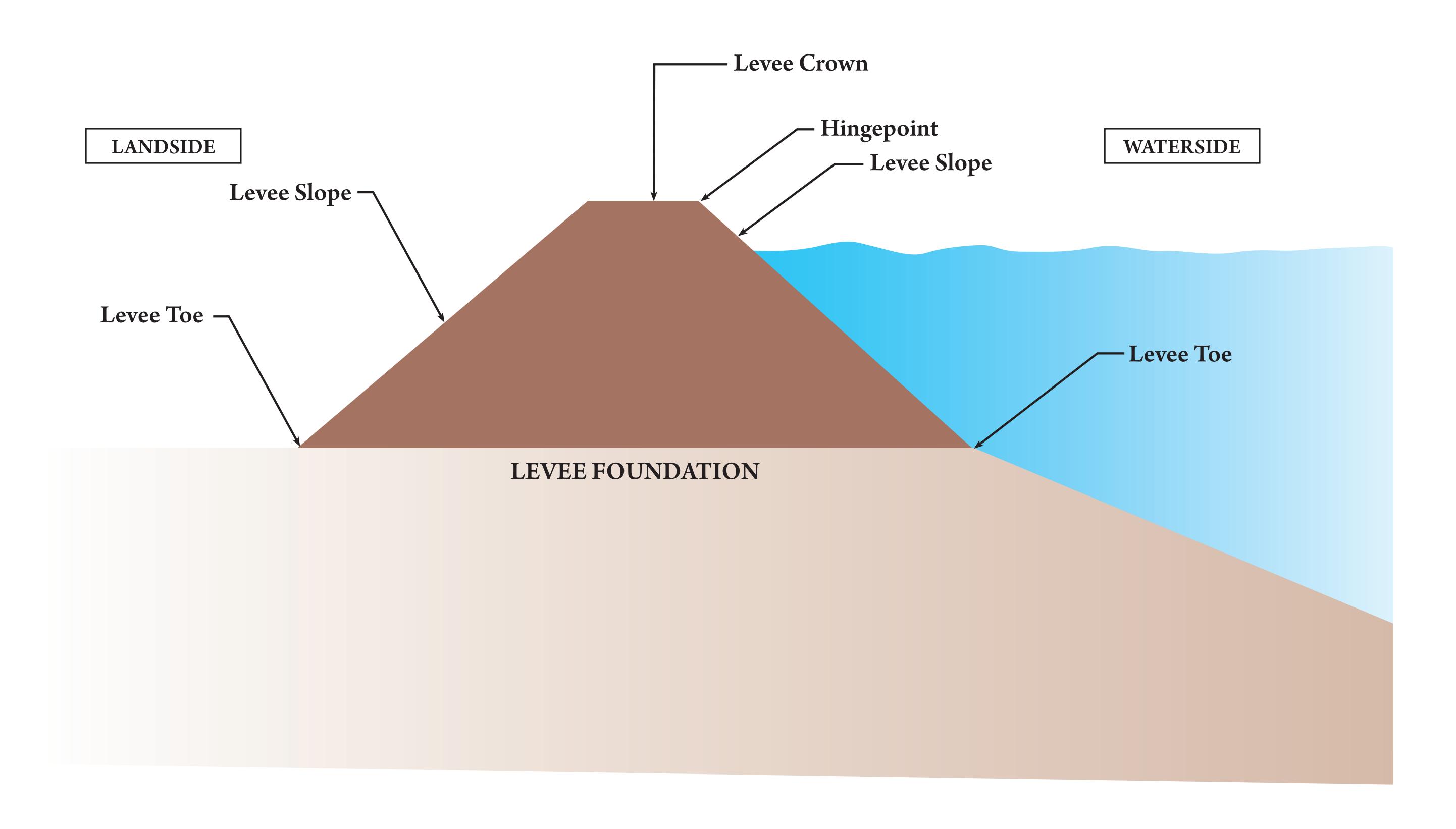
Funding

The feasibility study phase of this project is cost-shared; USACE will fund 50% and SBFCA and the State of California will fund the remaining 50% of the project.

Timeline

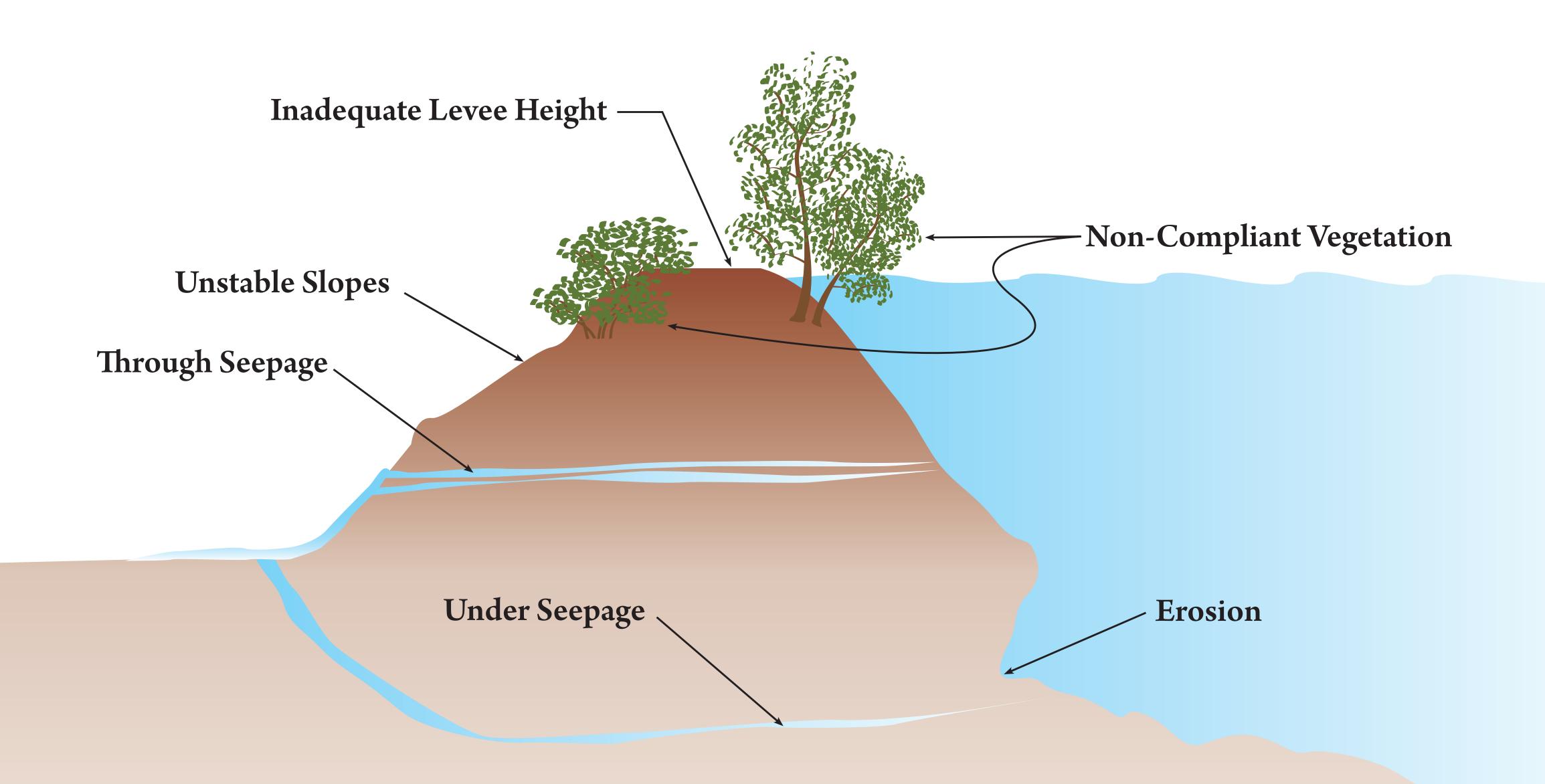


An "Inside" Look at a Levee



ook at Levee.indd 1

Typical Levee Deficiencies



- Unstable Slopes irregular or overly steep slopes compromise the levee structure
- Inadequate levee height levee height may be too low relative to predicted water levels
- Non-Compliant Vegetation can lead to levee instability and hinder levee monitoring and maintenance
- Erosion water flow, wakes and waves, remove soil material, damaging the levee
- Seepage

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About the Feather River West Levee Project

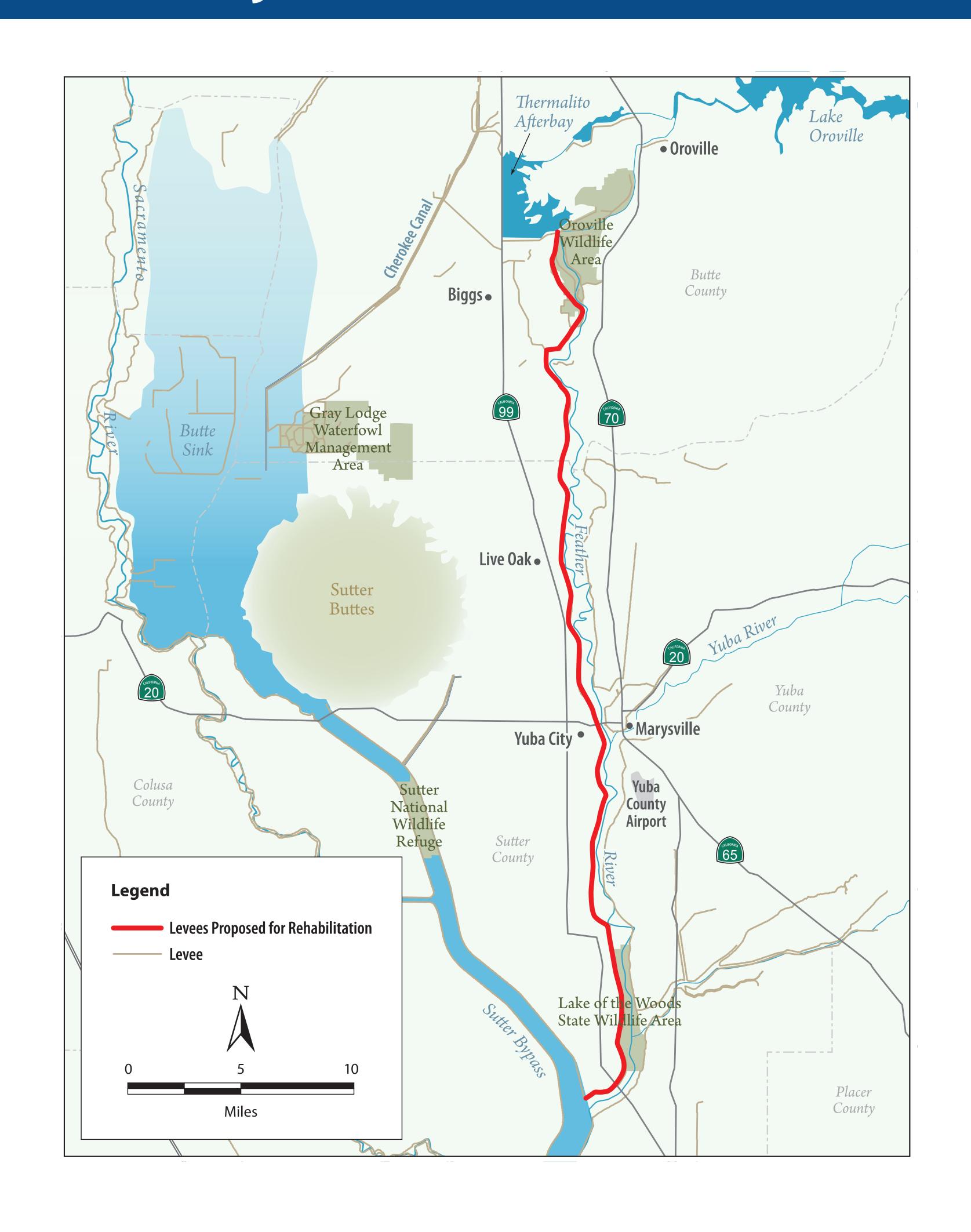
Communities in both Butte and Sutter Counties have an unfortunate historical knowledge of devastating flood events within the region. Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) is planning the Feather River West Levee Project (FRWLP) to address levee deficiencies found along 44 miles of the west levee of the Feather River from the Thermalito Afterbay south to the Sutter Bypass. Measures are being evaluated to meet Federal, state, and local flood protection criteria and goals. The FRWLP is expected to:

- Increase public safety by providing 200-year flood protection from Yuba City north to the Thermalito Afterbay, and the appropriate level of flood protection south of Yuba City (in conjunction with repairs to the Sutter Bypass, which are the responsibility of the state).
- Save property owners millions of dollars annually in flood insurance costs by delaying, preventing, or cutting short FEMA floodplain mapping.
- Allow cities and counties to implement general plans, which will soon be restricted for any urban or urbanizing community without 200-year flood protection. This would not apply to areas with fewer than 10,000 residents.
- Sustain and grow the local economy by creating construction jobs, protecting property values, and allowing for responsible development.

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Feather River West Levee Project Area

2G - FRWLP Study Area.indd 1



Feather River West Levee Project Funding and Timeline

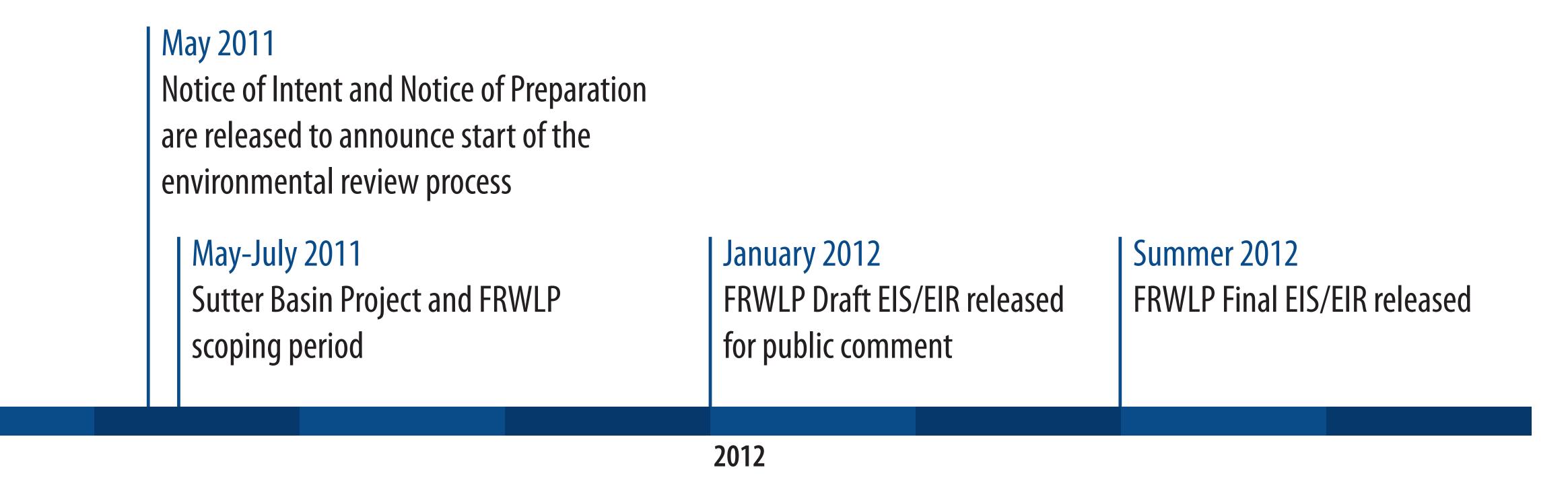
Funding

The FRWLP is estimated at \$250 million for construction. A local assessment district enacted in 2010 will pay 29% of the project cost and the State of California is expected to pay the remaining share.

Timeline

2011

Environmental specialists are currently analyzing the effects the FRWLP could have if implemented, to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This analysis will help engineers finalize the project design, and request Federal and state permits. The goal is to construct the FRWLP as quickly as possible in advance of and compatible with the Sutter Basin Project, potentially beginning construction in 2013.



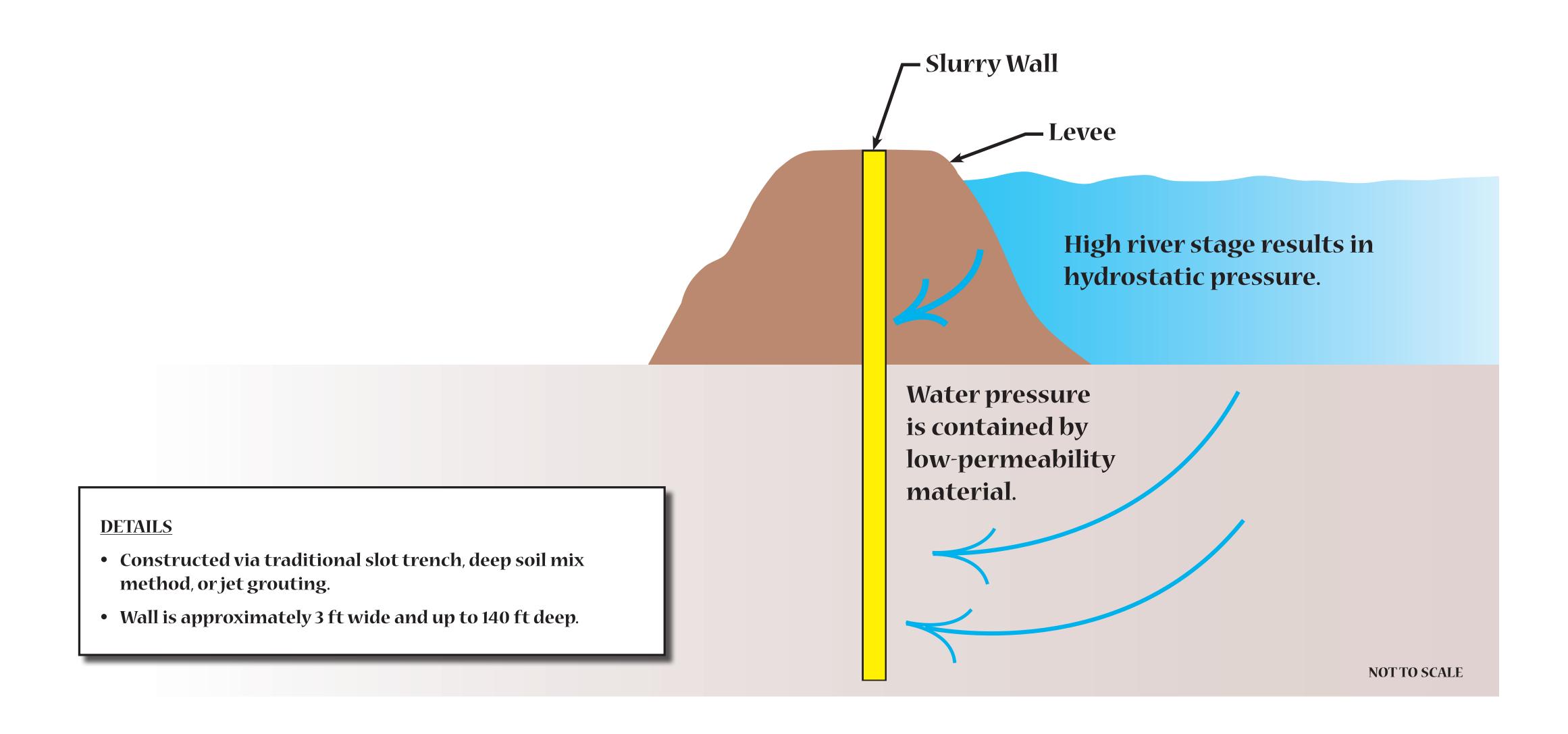
2H - Funding and Timeline.indd 1

Potential Measures

Slurry Cut-off Wall

Concept:

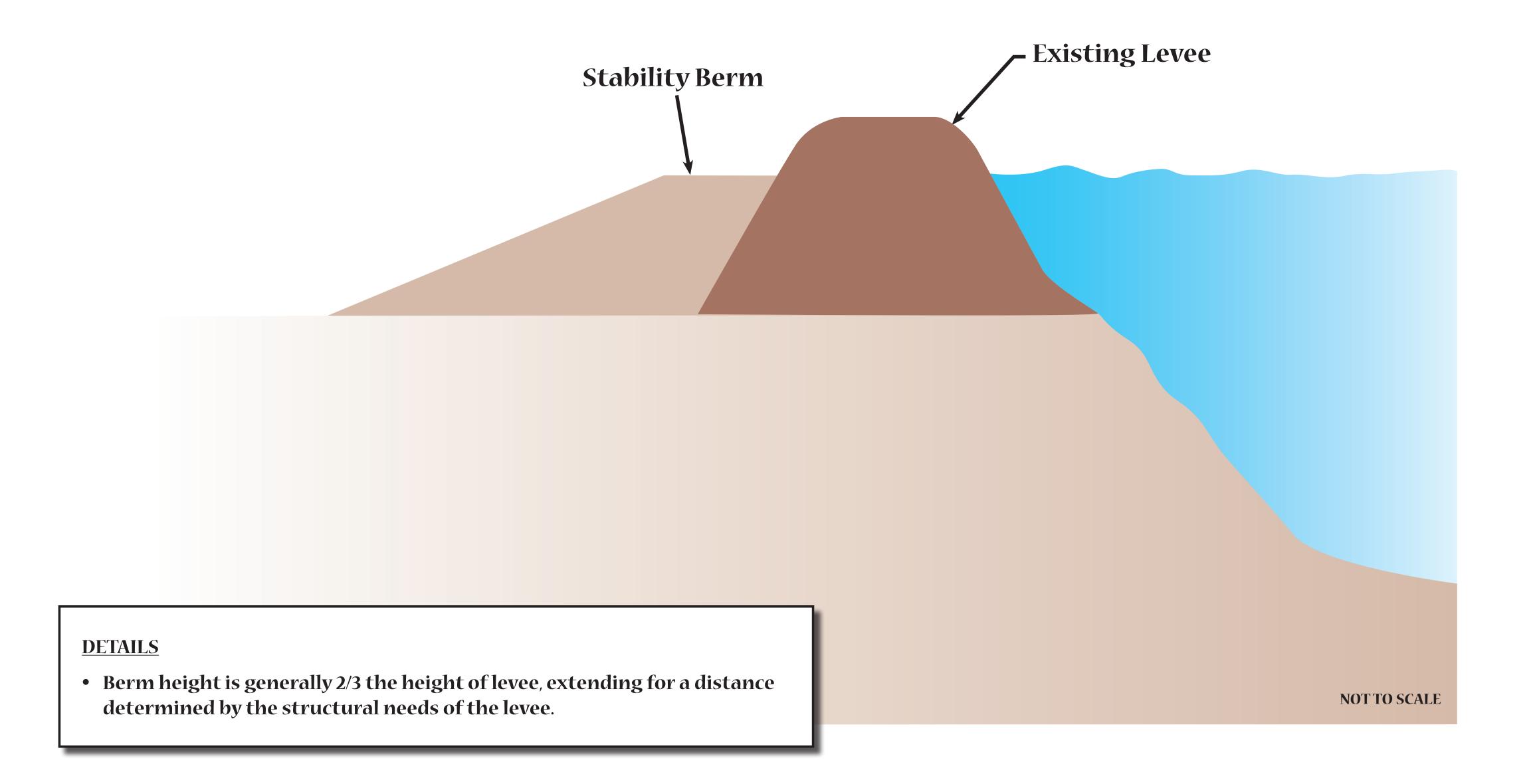
Water-seepage and through-seepage are controlled by a low-permeability wall constructed within the levee cross section.



Stability Berm

Concept:

Provides additional support to levee to increase strength.



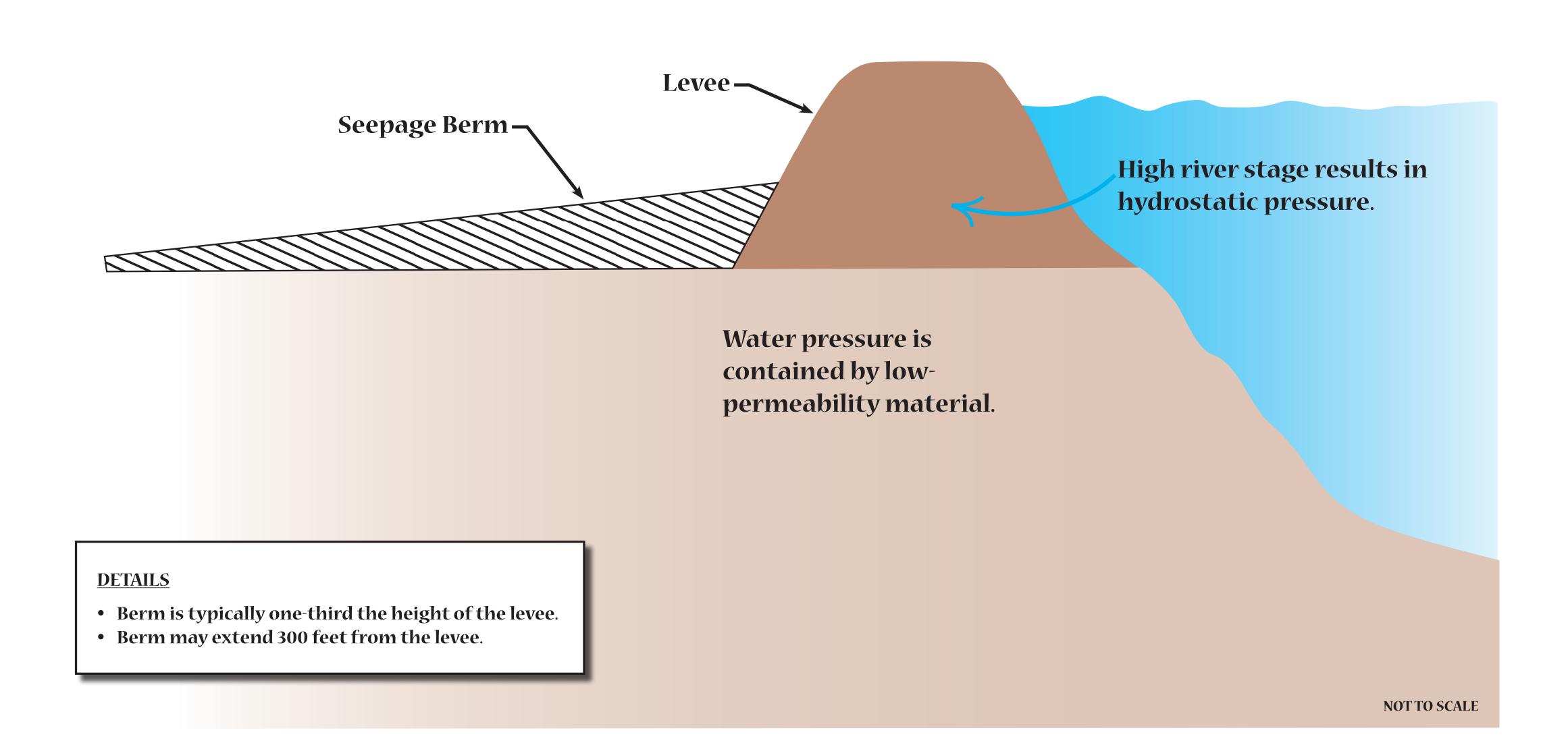
BB - Stability Berm.indd 1

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Seepage Berm

Concept:

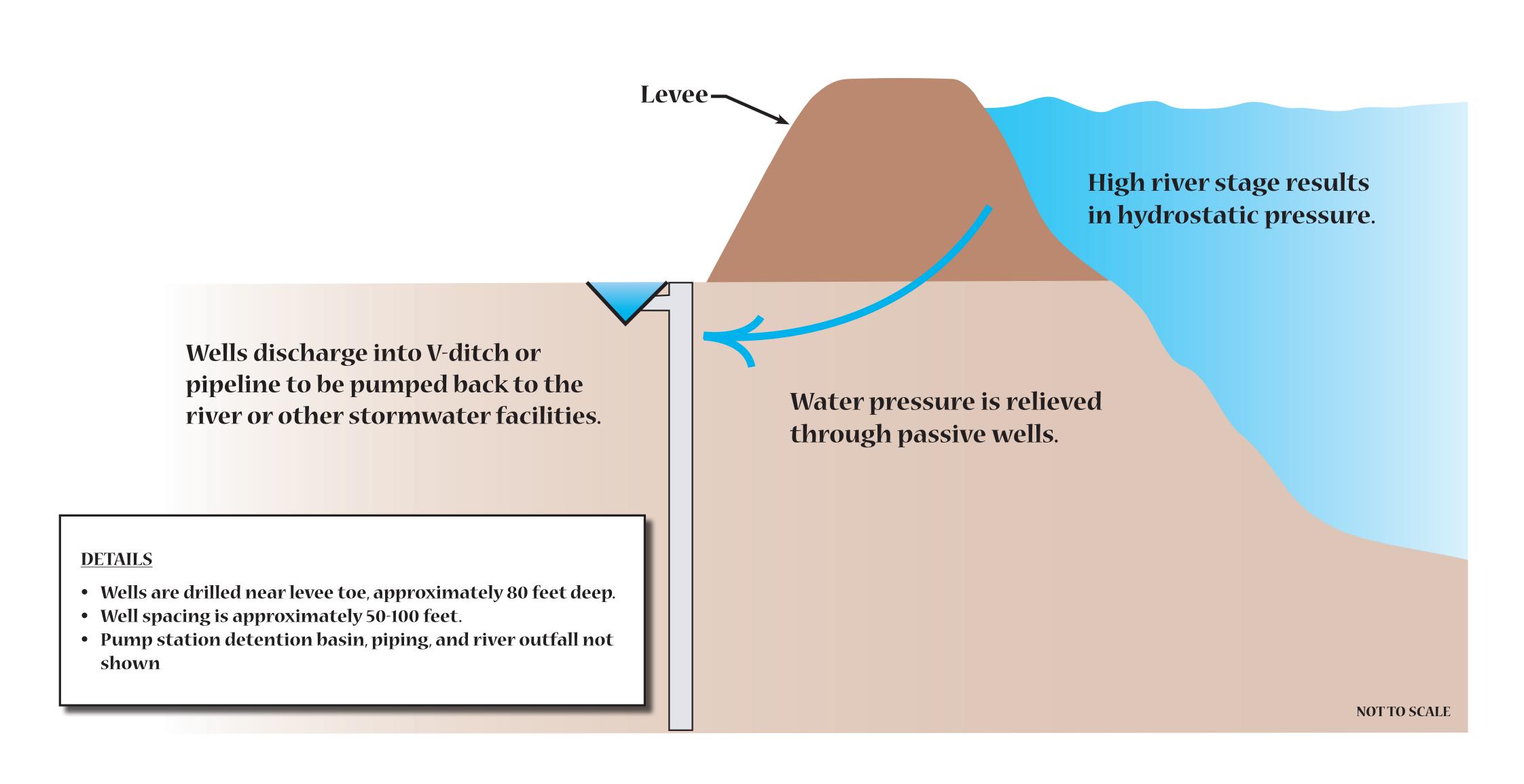
Water pressure is contained and dispersed by a thickened soil layer.



Relief Well

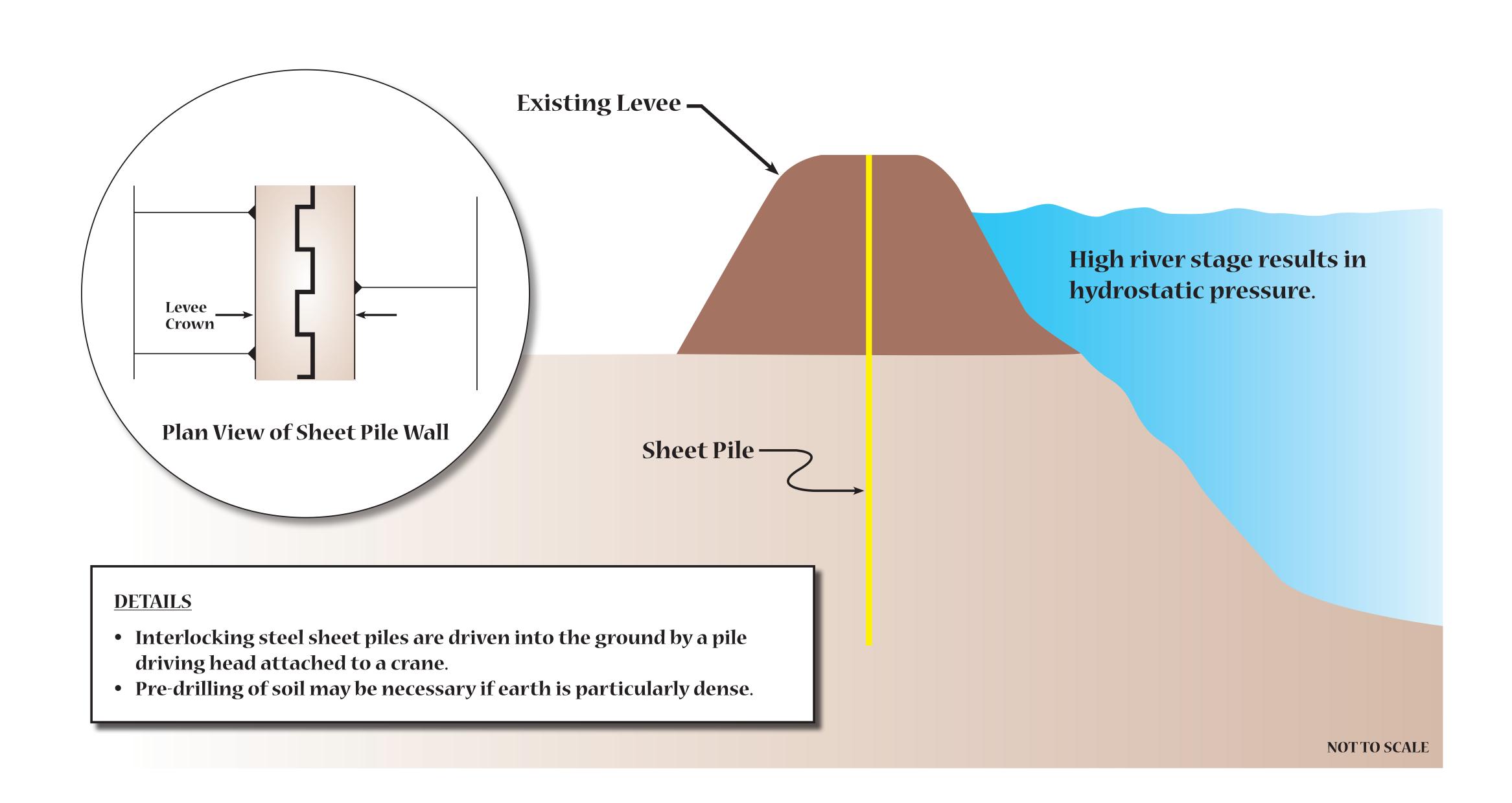
Concept:

Water pressure is relieved via passive wells, which direct water discharge into a collection system.



Sheet Pile Wall

Concept: Steel panels are driven into the levee core to provide a seepage barrier.



Slope Flattening

Concept:

Flatter slopes are more stable and less susceptible to erosion.

New material placed on landside of levee to create more stable slope. Existing material removed to create more stable slope.

DETAILS

- Slopes are repaired by reforming material on the landside (and waterside if necessary) to create flatter slopes.
- New material will meet current standards.

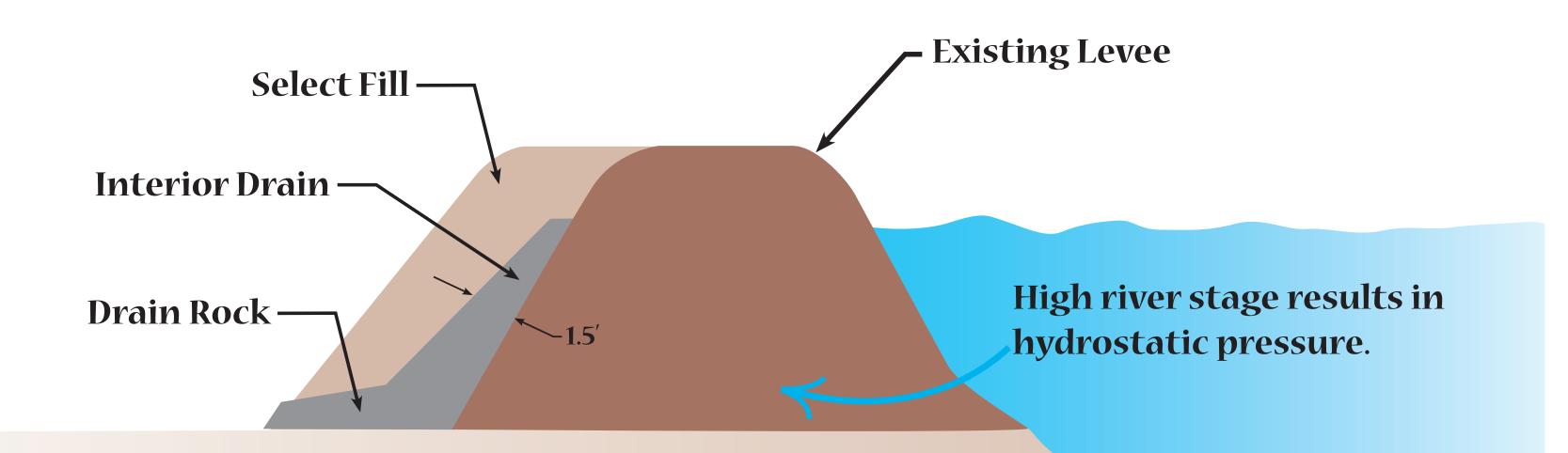
NOT TO SCALE

F - Slope Flattening.indd 1

Internal Drain

Concept:

Capture any through-seepage and direct it away from the face of the levee.



DETAILS

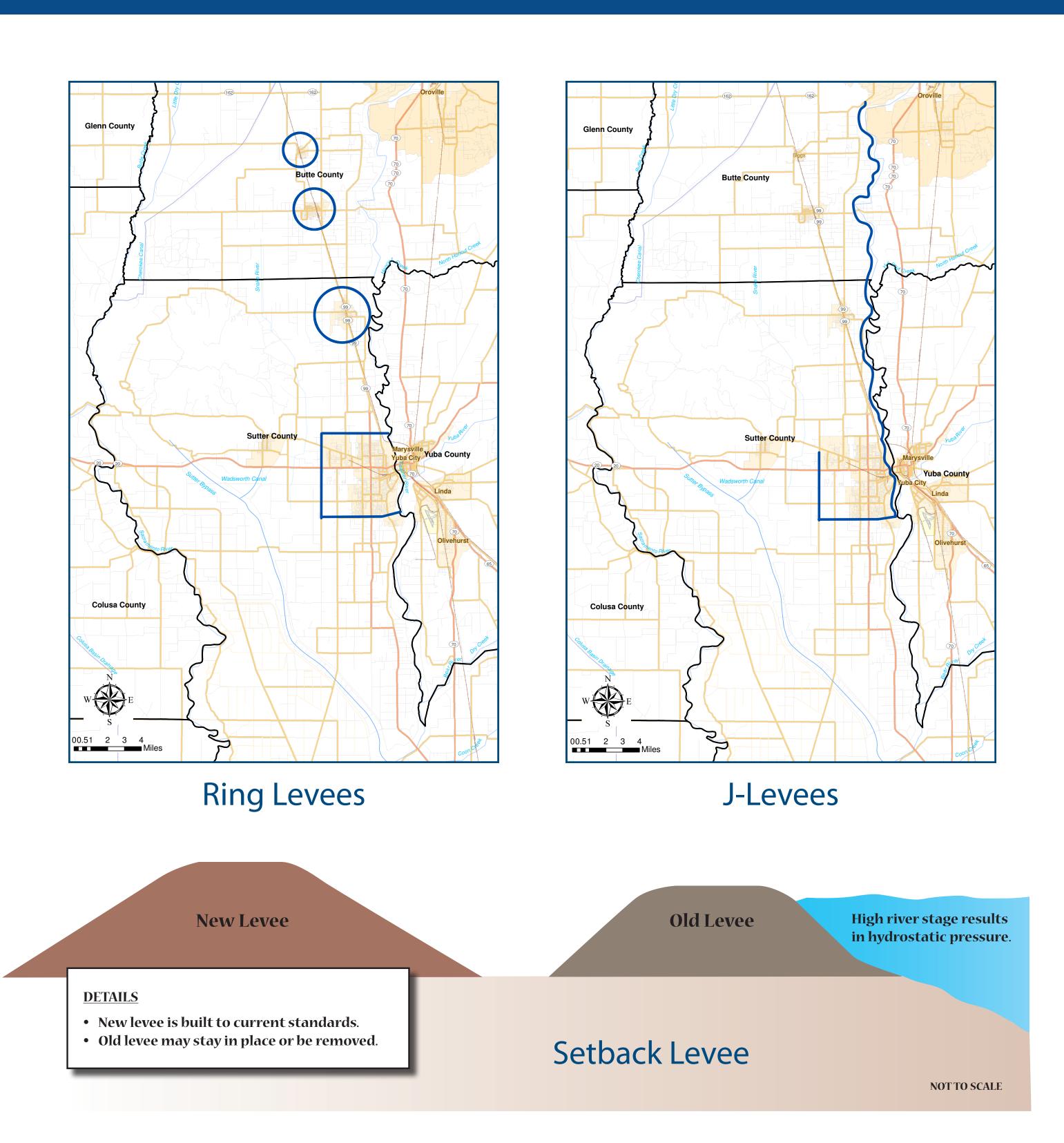
- Levee is partially excavated to install layers of drain rock encased in filter sand.
- Placed on the landside 1/3 of the levee.

NOT TO SCALE

New Levee Location

Concept:

A new levee is built where the existing levee is not readily repairable or where a change in the floodplain is an option (such as setback levees, ring levees, J-levees or similar concepts).



Reservoir Reoperation Flood Risk Management

Reduce flood risk by improving a reservoir's ability to store peak flood flows through a variety of operational or physical modifications.

Examples:

- Reallocate storage for flood risk management purposes.
- Utilize flood forecast based operations to release storage in anticipation of a flood event.

3I - Re-operation of Reservoirs.indd 1

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Non-Structural Flood Risk Management

Non-structural measures reduce flood risk without significantly altering the nature or extent of the flooding. They do this by changing the use made of the floodplains, or by accommodating existing uses to the flood hazard.

Examples:

- Flood proofing
- Relocation of structures
- Flood warning/preparedness systems
- Regulation of floodplain uses

Ecosystem Restoration

Existing levees have isolated the floodplains from waterways, thereby eliminating significant floodplain habitats for native species, including Federally-listed species and other special-status species. There is potential to restore these areas in conjunction with flood risk management measures.

Examples:

- Realign levees to restore floodplains and river function
- Establish riparian/wetland habitat in conjunction with detention basins and other storage facilities
- Modify water inflow to select ponds to restore fish production and riparian/wetland habitats
- Convert nonnative habitats to native riparian/wetland habitats
- Eradicate exotic invasive plant species and establish native habitat

Recreation

An opportunity exists to create or enhance recreation features consistent with flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration project features.

Examples:

- Multi-purpose paved trail on levee crown with access points, highway under crossings, public safety facilities, and appropriate signage
- Provide wildlife viewing platforms
- Picnic areas with associated parking and facilities
- Provide increased river access points

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Environmental Process

About NEPA & CEQA

It is anticipated the Sutter Basin Project and FRWLP will result in two separate environmental impact statements/ environmental impact reports (EIS/EIR)—one for each project. Both documents will disclose an activity's potential alternatives, potential effects, and proposed mitigation measures in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), respectively.

A joint EIS/EIR is prepared when there is both a Federal and state agency interest in an activity, and/or when a state agency needs permission to perform an action under Federal jurisdiction. The development of the draft joint EIS/EIR to evaluate the FRWLP is underway and scheduled for release in early 2012. The release date of USACE's draft joint EIS/EIR for the Sutter Basin Project has yet to be determined.

Scoping and Other Public Engagement

Scoping is a process used to inform the public of a proposed activity and provide an opportunity to give comment, insight, and local information related to the range of alternatives, environmental effects, and/or issues of concern related to the proposed activity.

Because the agencies are working to create two joint, albeit separate, environmental documents for these two projects, a joint scoping period is also being held. During the scoping process public input will be solicited about the scope of the environmental documents and the agencies will communicate with the public about the two efforts.

Scoping is particularly informative in a flood risk management project because the citizens of the effected community could have insight into the performance of a levee that the agencies are unaware of (think locations of under-seepage or boils or areas of general poor levee performance).

The comments received from public scoping will be used to inform development of the alternatives; defining the environment and resources potentially affected by the alternatives; and analysis of effects resulting from the alternatives. The affected environment broadly includes physical, biological, and social topic areas. Effects are identified and analyzed both for project construction and long-term operations and maintenance.

Potential Environmental Issues

The effect of a proposed activity on natural and built resources will be evaluated in the environmental documents for the Sutter Basin Project and the FRWLP. Resources analyzed in the EIS/ EIRs will include, but are not limited to:

- Transportation and Navigation
- Vegetation and Wetlands
- Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- Wildlife
- Fisheries and Aquatics
- Cultural Resources
- Air Quality, GHG and Climate Change
- Public Health and Environmental Hazards
- Land Use and Agriculture

Other Regulatory Compliance

USACE and SBFCA will need to comply with several regulations to complete the environmental process. Those could include:

Section 404: Establishes regulation of discharges of pollutants

• USACE grants 404 permits. The compliance mechanism is an Individual Permit, including 404(b)(1) alternatives analysis to identify least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA)

Section 401: Requires certification that the project will not adversely affect water quality

• Administered by State of California through the Regional Water Quality Control Board

Rivers and Harbors Act

- Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act requires permission from USACE for alterations to Federal flood control projects
 - More commonly referred to as Section 408

Endangered Species Act

- Purpose is to protect species and the ecosystems upon which they depend
- Administered by two Federal agencies: NMFS and USFWS
- Section 7 requires Federal agencies to ensure any action authorized, funded, or carried out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or modify their habitat
- If a listed species may be present, the agency must conduct a biological assessment (BA)
 - Analyzes the potential effects of the project on listed species and critical habitat
- NMFS/USFWS then determines a need for a biological opinion (BO) or letter of concurrence

National Historic Preservation Act

- Section 106: Requires consideration of resources eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
 - Administered by California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

Fish and Game Code

- Section 1600 et seq.: Work on the waterside of the levee will require Streambed Alteration Agreement
- Section 2050 et seq.: Potential effects on listed species will require demonstration that effects have been fully mitigated or incidental take permit





Thank you for your interest in these two public safety projects. Please provide us with your input on the scope of the projects and the environmental analysis here.





Welcome to the

SUTTER BASIN PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY & EATHER RIVER WEST LEVEE PROJECT

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

JUNE 27 & 28, 2011





PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- 1. Coordinated Flood Management Efforts
- 2. How Did We Get Here?
- 3. A Closer Look at Each Project
- 4. The Environmental Process





COORDINATED FLOOD MANAGEMENT EFFORTS





SUTTER BASIN PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY

- Led by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Initiated in 2001
- Purpose is to evaluate a Federal interest in flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and recreation projects in study area
- Coordinating with Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA), Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), and California Department of Water Resources (DWR)





FEATHER RIVER WEST LEVEE PROJECT (FRWLP)

- Led by local agency SBFCA
- Initiated upon approval of annual property assessment in 2010
- Purpose is to address levee deficiencies in the Feather River's west levee from Thermalito Afterbay to Sutter Bypass
- Construction start targeted for 2013
- SBFCA is coordinating with USACE, CVFPB, and DWR





A JOINT APPROACH

- Studied in coordination due to similar study areas, purpose, potential improvements, effects, and parties involved
- Separate but coordinated EIS/EIRs will be developed for each project
- USACE is NEPA lead and SBFCA is CEQA lead agency for environmental process, jointly coordinating with CVFPB and DWR





How DID WE GET HERE?





A BRIEF LOCAL HISTORY

- Before 1850, the Feather and Sacramento Rivers overflowed their banks in high-water periods every few years
- Sediment from hydraulic mining in the mid-1800s caused river beds to rise
- Levees were consequently privately constructed in late 1800s and early 1900s to combat primarily overtopping
- Levees were improved and incorporated under the Sacramento River Flood Control Project by USACE in early 1900s

A BRIEF LOCAL HISTORY (CONT.)

- Oroville Dam and Reservoir were completed in 1967, adding substantial flood storage
- New Bullards Bar Dam and Reservoir completed in 1970, adding substantial flood storage
- Flood risk is still present, with major events
- In 1955, breach on Feather River near Shanghai Bend (38 people killed)
- In 1986, break on Yuba River and slump on Sutter Bypass
- In 1997, breaches on Feather River and Sutter Bypass

Sacramento District

RECENT FLOOD MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

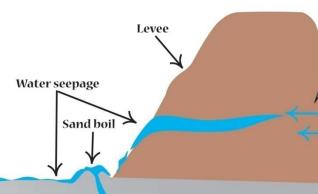
- Levee evaluation studies by USACE, DWR, and SBFCA have documented deficiencies in the system
- In 2010, property owners of Sutter and Butte Counties approved the formation of an assessment district to provide local funds for flood risk management





Through-seepage

High river levels lead to through-seepage in sandy soils. Through-seepage can dislocate soil material and cause sloughing and failure on the land-side of the levee slope.



Water level near flood-stage

CLAY BLANKET

INTERMIXED SAND AND GRAVELS

Under-seepage

High river levels lead to under-seepage through sandy and gravelly soils. An area of high water pressure beneath the clay blanket at the land-side levee toe can cause water seepage and sand boils.

A CLOSER LOOK AT EACH PROJECT





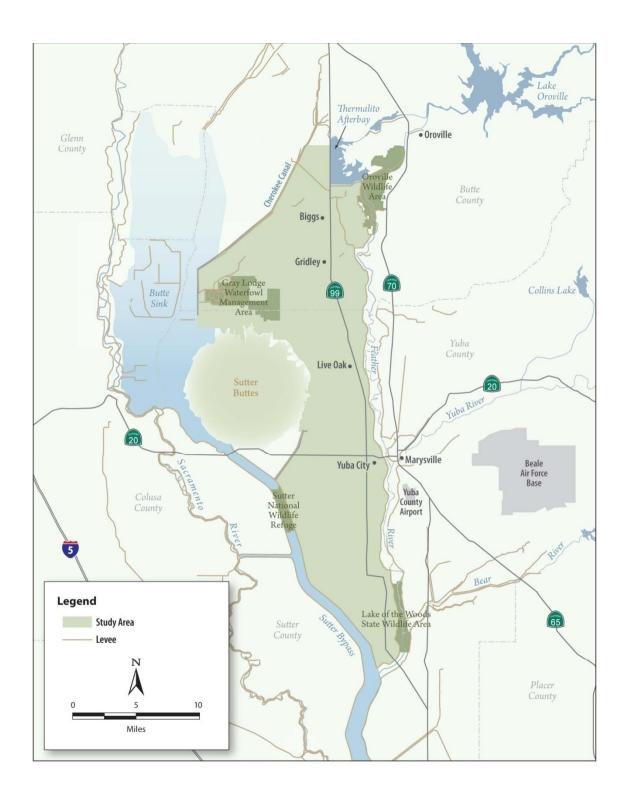
SUTTER BASIN PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY: STUDY AREA

- Study area encompasses ~284 sq. miles and is nearly encircled by Federal Project levees
- Includes portions of Sutter and Butte Counties
- About 44 miles long and 9 miles wide
- Feather River to the east and the Cherokee Canal, Wadsworth Canal, Sutter Buttes, and Sutter Bypass to the west





SUTTER BASIN PROJECT STUDY AREA



SUTTER BASIN PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY: PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL MEASURES

- Levees are at risk due to under- and through-seepage and overtopping
- Study will evaluate measures including: re-operation of reservoirs, improvements to existing levees, building new levees, and other storage & conveyance options

Sacramento District

 Ecosystem restoration would include restoration of floodplain function and habitat

SUTTER BASIN PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY: POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVES & FUNDING

- Potential alternatives include those that comprise flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and recreation measures
- Funding for the feasibility study phase only is cost-shared, 50% Federal (USACE) and 50% non-Federal (SBFCA and CVFPB)





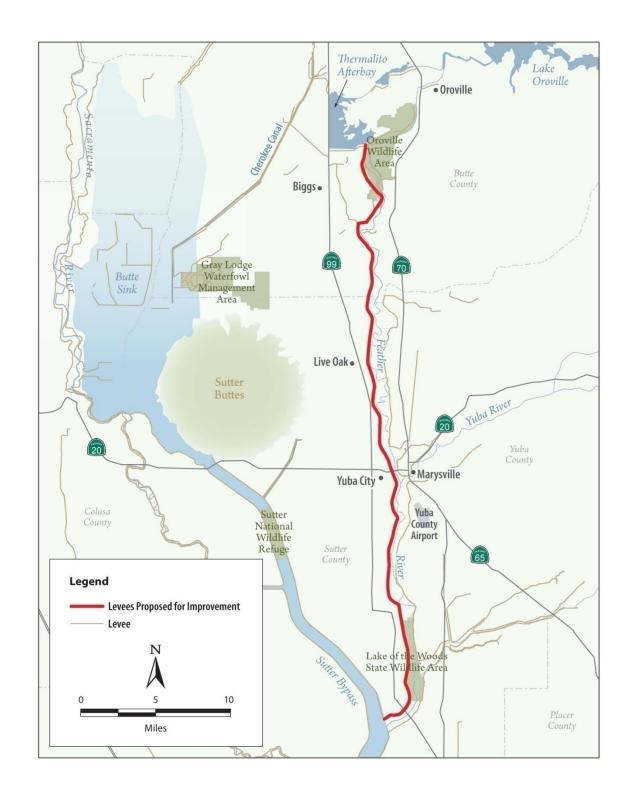
FEATHER RIVER WEST LEVEE PROJECT: STUDY AREA

- Will improve 44-miles of levees from the Thermalito Afterbay to the Sutter Bypass
- Provides flood risk management benefits to Live Oak, Biggs, Gridley, and Yuba City and unincorporated areas





FEATHER RIVER WEST LEVEE PROJECT STUDY AREA



FEATHER RIVER WEST LEVEE PROJECT: PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL MEASURES

- Primary deficiencies include throughseepage and under-seepage
- Measures may include slurry walls, seepage berms, stability berms, internal drains, relief wells, sheet-pile walls, slope flattening, and new levee alignments





FEATHER RIVER WEST LEVEE PROJECT: FUNDING

- The project cost is estimated at \$300 million
- The state is expected to pay as much as 76% of project costs
- Locals (within assessment district) will pay the remaining share through annual assessment (anticipated to be in effect for 33 years)





THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS





NEPA & CEQA

- NEPA (Federal) and CEQA (state) are both processes that require:
 - Analysis and disclosure of an activity's potential effect on the natural and built environments
 - Identification of alternatives and mitigation measures to reduce effects
- Processes may necessitate an EIS and EIR depending on potential effects (type and degree)

Sacramento District

JOINT EIS/EIR

- Prepared when there is both a Federal and state agency interest in an activity, and/or
- When a state lead agency needs permission to perform an action under Federal jurisdiction (Section 408 permission & Section 404 permit)
- Agencies partner to analyze effects in a joint EIS/EIR and disclose an activity's potential effects





WHAT IS **SCOPING**?

 Scoping is a process used to inform the public of the proposed activity and provide an opportunity to give input on the range of alternatives, potential environmental effects, and any issues of concern related to the proposed activity





SCOPING PERIOD

- May 20, 2011 to July 8, 2011
- Comments will be accepted via e-mail, fax, and USPS
- Comments must be postmarked, faxed, or time-stamped (email) before or on July 8, 2011





WAYS TO COMMENT

- Via E-mail
- Facsimile
- Via U.S. Postal Service
- Today via written comment (see comment cards)
- Provide oral comments to court reporter





CONTACT INFORMATION

Mail or E-mail comments to:

Matt Davis U.S Army Corps of Engineers 1325 J Street Sacramento, CA 95814 Ingrid Norgaard Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency c/o ICF International 630 K Street, Suite 400 Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916–557–6708 *Fax:* 916–557–7856

Phone: 916–737–3000 *Fax:* 916–737–3030

Matthew.G.Davis@usace. army.mil

inorgaard@icfi.com





THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING







Coordinated Environmental Analysis

It is anticipated the Sutter Basin Project and FRWLP will result in two separate environmental impact statements/ environmental impact reports (EIS/EIR)—one for each project. Both documents will disclose alternatives, potential effects, and proposed mitigation measures in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), respectively. A joint EIS/EIR is prepared when there is both a Federal and state agency interest in an activity, and/or when a state agency needs permission to perform an action under Federal jurisdiction.

Development of the draft EIS/EIR to evaluate the FRWLP is underway and scheduled for public release in early 2012. A public release date for the Sutter Basin Project draft EIS/EIR has yet to be determined.

The Scoping Process

USACE and SBFCA are working together to combine and coordinate this public scoping process for their two separate environmental documents.

Scoping is a process in which agencies inform the public of a proposed activity and provide an opportunity for public input on the range of alternatives, environmental effects, and issues of concern related to the proposed activity. It also allows agencies to gather insights and local information from the public related to the activity.

Comments received from this public scoping period will be used to inform development of the alternatives; define the environment and resources potentially affected by the alternatives; and analyze effects resulting from the alternatives. The affected environment broadly includes physical, biological, and social topic areas. Effects will be identified and analyzed both for project construction and long-term operations and maintenance. The scoping period is from May 20, 2011 to July 8, 2011.

For more information on these efforts, visit www.spk.usace.army.mil or www.sutterbutteflood.org.

Sutter Basin Project and Feather River West Levee Project



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA), in coordination with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), are undertaking two related efforts to study flood risk management measures in Sutter and Butte Counties. USACE is leading a feasibility study for the Sutter Basin Project to determine Federal interest in flood risk management in conjunction with other related purposes in the Sutter Basin study area, while SBFCA is leading the Feather River West Levee Project (FRWLP) to address deficiencies in 44 miles along the west levee of the Feather River.

USACE and SBFCA are studying these two projects in close coordination because they are related in their study areas, purpose, potential measures, and potential effects.







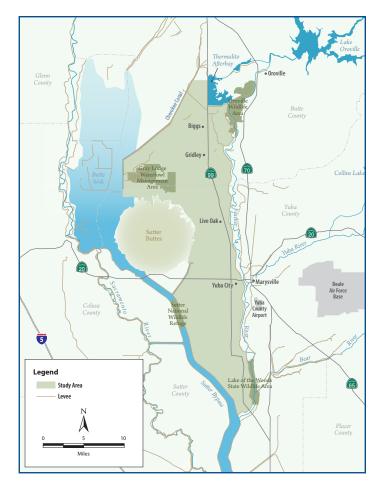
A Closer Look at the Two Projects

The Sutter Basin Project Feasibility Study

In 2000, the State of California and USACE entered into a cost-sharing agreement to initiate a feasibility study within the Sutter Basin. An amendment of the cost-sharing agreement was signed in July 2010 to include SBFCA as a non-Federal sponsor. The purpose of the feasibility study is to address flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and recreation issues in the study area.

The Sutter Basin Project feasibility study evaluates approximately 285 square miles that are roughly bounded by the Feather River, Sutter Bypass, Wadsworth Canal, Sutter Buttes, and Cherokee Canal. The study area is essentially encircled by project levees and the high ground of the Sutter Buttes. Past flood events and geotechnical analysis show these levees have a higher probability of failure related to through-and under-seepage than levees designed to meet current standards. Additionally, the levees are at risk of overtopping from floods greater than they are designed to withstand.

As part of the Sutter Basin Project feasibility study, USACE is evaluating a variety of flood risk management measures that could include re-operation of reservoirs; improvements to existing levees; construction of new levees; other storage, conveyance, and non-structural options; and measures that could potentially restore the

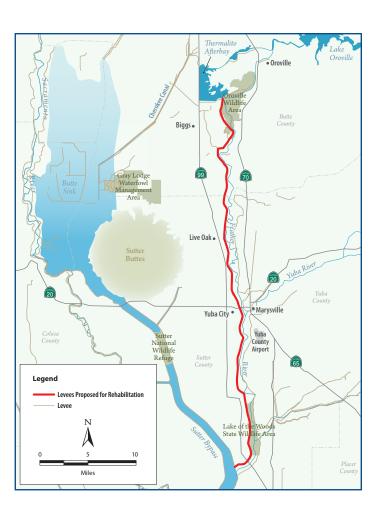


ecosystem within the study area and develop or expand recreation facilities. This study will be the basis for a recommendation to Congress to address water resources and related issues within the study area. The feasibility study phase of this project is cost-shared: USACE will fund 50%, and SBFCA and the State of California will fund the remaining 50%.

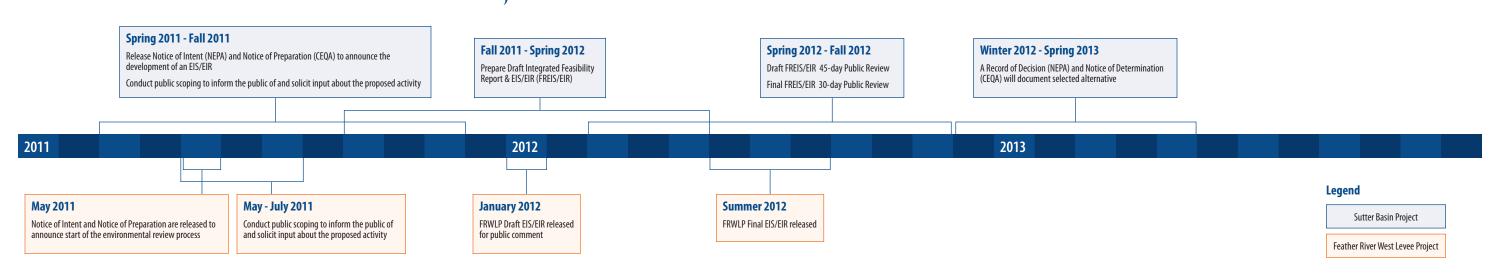
The Feather River West Levee Project

SBFCA is planning the FRWLP to address levee deficiencies found along 44 miles of the Feather River's west levee from the Thermalito Afterbay south to the Sutter Bypass. The west levee provides flood risk management benefits to the cities of Yuba City, Gridley, Live Oak, and Biggs, and portions of Butte and Sutter Counties. Measures are being evaluated to meet Federal, state, and local flood protection criteria and goals.

The west levee is at risk of failure from through- and under-seepage and from overtopping caused by floods greater than the levee is designed to withstand. Alternatives to repair these deficiencies could include slurry walls, seepage berms, stability berms, internal drains, relief wells, sheet-pile walls, slope flattening, and new levee alignments. The goal is to construct the FRWLP as quickly as possible, in advance of and compatible with the Sutter Basin Project, potentially in 2013.



Environmental Review Process Timeline for the Sutter Basin Project and FRWLP



Sutter Basin Project & Feather River West Levee Project



June 27, 2011 Scoping Meeting Comment Card

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Sutter Basin Project & Feather River West Levee Project





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Attachment C

- Comments received from all interested parties (including those transcribed by court reporter)
- Attendee sign-in sheet templates

Sutter Basin Project & Feather River West Levee Project



June 27, 2011 Scoping Meeting Comment Card

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ORIGINAL

SUTTER BASIN PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY & FEATHER RIVER WEST LEVEE PROJECT PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING Û YUBA CITY, CA

DATE:

June 27, 2011

TIME:

3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

REPORTED BY:

Jillian Bassett

Certified Shorthand Reporter No. 13619



Northern California Court Reporters

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STAN CLEVELAND, COUNTY SUPERVISOR:

I was told to repeat the comment I made regarding including the DWR Corridor Management Project, which is called The Lower Feather River Corridor Management Project. And there's a management group, and then there's -- I forgot what the other one is; there's two groups. And Aecom, they're the project, I guess, engineer group for that. And making sure that that is coordinated with this here. Because in that corridor of the Feather River, they're doing a lot of environmental planning and setting a foundation, or a level base, to where everybody won't have to come back and start from scratch on any of their studies -- environmental studies.

1.9

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Certificate of Certified Shorthand Reporter The undersigned certified shorthand reporter of the state of California does hereby certify: That the foregoing deposition was taken before me at the time and place therein set forth, at which time the witness was duly sworn by me; That the testimony of the witness and all objections made at the time of the examination were recorded stenographically by me and thereafter transcribed, said transcript being a true copy of my shorthand notes thereof. In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name this Certificate number

ORIGINAL

SUTTER BASIN PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY & FEATHER RIVER
WEST LEVEE PROJECT PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING û GRIDLEY, CA

DATE:

June 28, 2011

TIME:

3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

REPORTED BY:

Jillian Bassett

Certified Shorthand Reporter No. 13619



Northern California Court Reporters

Certified Shorthand Reporters & Legal Photocopy (916) 485-4949 ■ Fax (916) 485-1323 ■ (888) 600-NCCR 1325 Howe Avenue, Suite 105 ■ Sacramento, CA 95825 nccr@norcalreporters.com ■ www.norcalreporters.com DAVID NEUBERT:

I live in Sutter County. I was speaking with your colleagues, and they mentioned one of the options they're looking at is a levee setback in the area of Nelson slough along Sacramento Avenue in Sutter County. And this would be the area between the Sacramento bypass and the Feather River, right where the Feather River enters the bypass. There's, I don't know, maybe 900,000 acres there that they could sort of cut the corner on the levee the way it exists now, and pick up 1,000 acres of floodplain.

And I'm just -- I think that's a great idea.

There's -- I think there might be one house, and it's probably just a rental in that area. So you probably wouldn't have a lot of homeowners that would be hopping mad. And you'd probably pick up 10 or 15,000 acre-feet of flood storage. So it would be something, I think, that would -- engineering-wise, it would be an interesting levee setback to look at.

So the other thing that I think that as a resident of Sutter County, and I live in the LD-1 area -- I'm not sure if LD-1 has the capacity -- management capacity to pull something like that off. You know, maybe setting up something like

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1	trilla (phonetic) like they did in Yuba County. Or maybe
2	this super agency, the Sutter Butte Agency, could do it.
3	But I just I just don't think management
4	capacity, or I should say the planning capacity of the
5	board level I think the management, the managers of
6	LD-1 are fine. But the board, I don't think, has vision
7	for projects like this. So hopefully they do.
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RICHARD KUCEK:

I guess it goes back to the building of the levee was our first project for the taxpayers to protect everybody from flooding. Okay. They knew after '55 when they finished the levee and had to break in Yuba City, that that wouldn't solve the problem. So they took -- and I wouldn't say they use -- it had scare tactic. But they got the taxpayers to fund another project which was get the dam at Lake Oroville. And the state of California, at that time, from what I understand, did not have enough money to build it. But the taxpayers voted it in, so it went on their tax board. But Southern California funded most of the money for building that in return for surplus water out at the lake.

And somewhere down the line it got turned around that I guess the water's worth more than the people in the houses. So they keep the lake elevation too high. But if they would keep it down, we would never need these projects that they're proposing today, which would be the third ones the taxpayers are going to pay for just for protection.

And like, the slurry would be the right way to fix this right now. If they went with the berm, that would cause a lot of problems, because there would be

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maintenance, and they can't maintain the levees that there are right now. You can go out there and look at it; kids drive up and down on it, there's gophers and squirrels on it and everything else. And they don't spray it. They don't kill the weeds. They don't do nothing. So if they do, I guess that setback levee, that wouldn't cause a lot more problems on the east side of it, and then what do you do with that? Because you got to be in the floodplain. But the berm, to me, would be too expensive to keep in 33 years.

So I don't know how they got as far as they did with this project. But it should never happen because the taxpayers shouldn't have to pay three times for flood protection.

So I don't know. I guess we'll just go to the meetings and see how it comes out and, you know, if they're going to do all this, and Southern California has the right to all that water, why don't they pay the bills? I mean, why should we have to pay it? If they want to keep that lake full enough so it enables us from flooding, they should have to pay the bill if it does flood. Not raise our taxes and everything else, and our flood insurance, and they get all the water, and we got the bill.

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BOB BARKHOUSE:

Two concerns I have is the east levee of the Sutter bypass, because, in my lifetime, on the west side -- I've had to live through two floods -- farmland on the other side -- major floods. Those levees on the west side -- east side are no better than west side, yet we're trying to contain the overflow from the Sacramento River between bypass. And we certainly are subject to flooding if the right condition --

And then my second concern was the maps continuously show a perimeter levee around Yuba City, or a J levee on the south and west side. And I'm concerned about building a levee around Yuba City and putting the city of Yuba City in the same parallel as the city of Marysville. Although Marysville has never flooded, but it's always -- the bowl is likely to fill up someday, and it would be a catastrophe.

But I am concerned about that part. They have a strong levee on the Feather River, and let that take care of itself. So that was my two concerns.

-	Certificate
2	of
3	Certified Shorthand Reporter
4	The undersigned certified shorthand reporter of the
5	state of California does hereby certify:
6	That the foregoing deposition was taken before me at
7	the time and place therein set forth, at which time the
8	witness was duly sworn by me;
9	That the testimony of the witness and all objections
10	made at the time of the examination were recorded
11	stenographically by me and thereafter transcribed, said
12	transcript being a true copy of my shorthand notes thereof.
13	In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name this
14	date July 25 acil.
15	
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17	- JUL BUSIA
18	Certificate number 13019
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Sutter Basin Project & Feather River West Levee Project

June 27, 2011 Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheet



Name	Title	Affiliation	Street Address	City	Zip Code	How did you hear about the meeting?

Sutter Basin Project & Feather River West Levee Project

June 28, 2011 Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheet



Name	Title	Affiliation	Street Address	City	Zip Code	How did you hear about the meeting?